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# GAIN Report

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## Australia

### Grain and Feed

### Bulk Wheat Export Applications

**2007**

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**Report Highlights:**

Applicants for permits to export non-AWB bulk wheat from Australia are being given the opportunity to provide further information supporting their applications to the Export Wheat Commission. During the election campaign, the Labor Party announced that, if elected, it would introduce significant changes to current wheat export marketing arrangements.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Annual Report  
Canberra [AS1]  
[AS]

Tony Burke, Australian Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry released a statement on December 12 with regard to outstanding wheat export applications in which he called on applicants of bulk wheat permits to provide further information to the Wheat Export Commission for consideration.

Begin Text:

### **Outstanding bulk wheat export applications**

Applicants to export bulk wheat from Australia are being given the opportunity to provide further information supporting their applications to the Export Wheat Commission. The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke, said today he had asked the Commission to contact applicants to offer them an opportunity to provide further information. "These applications were received some time ago and circumstances for individual applicants may have changed," Mr. Burke said. "The Australian wheat crop has been significantly revised downwards, world wheat markets have changed and exports in bags and containers have been deregulated. As a result, I have asked the Commission to contact applicants and provide them with an opportunity to update their applications. Applicants should provide any additional information directly to the Commission. I will consider the Commission's recommendations as a priority. I have requested the Commission to report to me by mid-January," Mr. Burke said. End text. (Source: DAFF Media Release, 12/12/2007).

**Comment:** During the election campaign, the Labor Party announced that, if elected, it would introduce significant changes to current wheat export marketing arrangements. On October 10, Labor released their plans for wheat marketing (GAIN Report AS 7060) which provided for the introduction of exports of bulk wheat by accredited exporters. Labor proposed a new model for exporting wheat which retains a single desk with multiple accredited exporters. Under the Labor plan (announced prior to the election) the single desk would be managed by a new export regulator, Wheat Exports Australia, which would replace the recently created Export Wheat Commission. A new export accreditation scheme would be developed and administered by Wheat Exports Australia. Wheat Exports Australia would control bulk wheat exports by accrediting exporters. Growers would be able to directly participate in bulk exports through accredited Grower Cooperatives and/or Alliances. AWB International's veto power would not be reinstated and the 'general exemption' from control of the Export Wheat Commission currently held by AWB International would also be removed. Labor announced that implementation of these changes and the transition of industry development functions would be informed by expert industry advice provided directly to the Minister; and these arrangements would be independently evaluated by 2010. These actions would require legislative changes.

One of the first decisions on wheat marketing the new government must make concerns the outstanding applications to export bulk wheat that were formerly Agriculture Minister McGauran's responsibility. During Minister McGauran's time in office 5 non-AWB bulk export permits (out of a rumored 80 applications) were granted. Trade sources indicate that there are over 20 applications to export non-AWB bulk wheat pending a decision.

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Report Number	Title of Report	Date
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AS7071	GM Moratoria to be Lifted in Two States	11/29/07
AS7070	Cotton Quarterly Update	11/29/07
AS7069	Ag Down Under Vol. 13	11/26/07
AS7068	Fresh Deciduous Fruit Report	11/21/07
AS7067	Retail Sector Report	11/08/07
AS7066	Citrus Annual	11/07/07
AS7065	Ag Down Under Vol. 12	11/02/07
AS7063	Dairy & Products Annual	10/24/07
AS7062	Issues Paper – Safeguards Inquiry into Imports of Pig Meat	10/24/07